

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Troop Movements and Maneuvers in the Wittstock - Neuruppin - Fuerstenberg -- Templin Area

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

632721

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

13 April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 7 March, numerous trucks

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passed through Gadow toward Glashuette from the direction of Neuruppin.

2. On 9 March, one 76.2-mm AT gun was emplaced in Jagen (forest section) 110 east of Gadow. Four tents occupied by enlisted men were seen near the camouflaged gun. Truck observed in the same Jagen

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3. At about 5 p.m. on 13 March, long motor columns came from the direction of Fretzdorf and proceeded toward Neuruppin. They included an estimated 200 trucks, 6 x 76.2-mm AT guns, 6 x 57-mm AT guns, 20 half-track vehicles and 30 six-wheeled armored scout cars.

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4. At 12:30 p.m. on 15 March, truck loaded with telephone wire was observed in Jagen 117, east of Gadow. Soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets constructed two telephone lines. Weapons and motor vehicles observed in Jagen 72 included four 37-mm AA guns in emplacements, four trucks

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and two six-wheeled armored scout cars parked under camouflage. Trucks with field kitchens were observed picking up water in Gadow at about 1 p.m.

5. In the morning of 16 March, trucks were parked under camouflage in Jagen. Enlisted men observed at the trucks wore black-bordered black epaulets. At 1 p.m., trucks each loaded with a field kitchen, arrived from the direction

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of Gadow. At about 2 p.m., about 30 tanks [redacted] 25X1
 SP guns [redacted] were dug in by enlisted men on the Gadow-Basdorf road near Jagen
 101. At 4:30 p.m., 12 trucks [redacted]

[redacted] each occupied by about 20 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets 25X1
 and carrying rifles, travelled toward [redacted] from the direction of Dossow. At
 7:25 p.m., a troop train of 16 flatcars loaded with 12 tanks and 4 repair-shop trucks
 and about 10 boxcars with enlisted men passed through the Dossow railroad station
 toward Neuruppin.

6. At about 10 a.m. on 17 March, a column of trucks and tanks which came from the 25X1
 direction of Hammetstall proceeded past Jagen 117 toward Neuglienicke. It inclu-
 ded T-34 tanks [redacted] SP guns [redacted] and JS 2 of JS 3
 tanks [redacted] Trucks [redacted] were observed in
 Jagen 95 and 80.

7. At 3:20 p.m. on 18 March, a troop train with about 25 T-34 tanks [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] passed through the Wittstock railroad station toward Dranse.⁴ 25X1

8. From 11 to 18 March, numerous troop trains passed through Wittstock toward Neuruppin 25X1
 from the direction of Parchim. [redacted] 25X1

11 March: At 8:20 a.m., a train of 13 flatcars with a total of 26 T-34 tanks and
 six or seven boxcars with enlisted men. Although the tank numbers were concealed,
 [redacted] At 1:30 p.m., a train of flatcars with
 about 30 T-34 tanks [redacted] 25X1

15 March: At 9:30 a.m., a train of flatcars with a total of 6 T-34 tanks, 6 prime
 movers, 26 trucks, 1 radio truck and 1 field kitchen emitting smoke, and 13 boxcars
 with enlisted men. At 3:25 p.m., a train of flatcars with 13 x 76.2-mm guns, flatcars
 with side-racks loaded with 28 trucks, 13 full-track prime movers, 4 radio trucks,
 and 3 field kitchens including two emitting smoke, and 19 boxcars with enlisted men;
 all motor-vehicle numbers were concealed.

16 March: At 8 a.m., a train of flatcars with side racks with 15 trucks and 16 heavy
 guns, 16 boxcars with enlisted men, and other flatcars with side racks with twelve
 85-mm AT guns, 1 field kitchen, 2 radio trucks, 12 prime movers and 5 or 6 sidecar
 motorcycles.

18 March: At 6 p.m., a train of flatcars with 18 T-34 tanks and 33 trucks [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] and 6 boxcars with enlisted men. Several railway offi- 25X1
 cials said that the trains were unloaded in the Netzebar-Neuruppin-Loewenberg-Templin
 area.²

9. At about 9 a.m. on 18 March, an empty troop train of flatcars and boxcars was ob-
 served at the Wittstock railroad station. About 30 trucks and about the same number
 of 70-mm or 80-mm AT guns ready for loading were seen at the ramp. Numerous enlisted
 men were observed with the vehicles. Trucks and enlisted men were dirty. From the
 tracks of the vehicles it was concluded that the troops came from the direction of
 Kyritz. [redacted] the troops returned from maneuvers in 25X1
 the Neuruppin - Templin area and were going to be entrained.³

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10. At about 6:30 p.m. on 10 March, a troop train loaded with about 10 x 85-mm AT guns, 30 trucks and 2 field kitchens and including 6 boxcars with enlisted men wearing red-bordered black epaulets passed through Lychen toward Fuerstenberg. The trucks [] On 12 March, ten trucks each occupied by about 20 enlisted men wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying submachine guns left Fuerstenberg toward Neustrelitz. All soldiers wore red arm bands with a red "P" in a white disk. 25X1
11. At 5:30 p.m. on 11 March, a troop train loaded with 12 JS-3 tanks [] about 20 tank trucks, 30 trucks and 2 field kitchens emitting smoke, and including 8 boxcars with enlisted men passed through Lychen toward Fuerstenberg. 25X1 25X1
12. At about 2 p.m. on 13 March, 25 sidecar motorcycles [] each occupied by three men wearing wadded jackets and partially mounting light machine guns passed through Lychen toward Templin. In the afternoon, a troop train of 8 boxcars with enlisted men wearing red-bordered black epaulets and an unidentified number of flatcars with sideracks loaded with 12 x 85-mm AT guns, about 20 trucks and 2 field kitchens passed through Lychen toward Fuerstenberg. At about 2:30 p.m. on 18 March, two sidecar motorcycles and 6 six-wheeled armored scout cars were seen travelling to the northeast on the Lychen-Prenzlau road, about 6.5 km northeast of Lychen. 25X1
13. At about 8 a.m. on 19 March, truck [] with a field kitchen emitting smoke and truck [] were [] between Jagen 43 and 36, about 2.5 km west of Bruesenwalde. About 500 meters east of these vehicles, 10 to 15 men were camouflaging a column of tanks on the road. At about 2:30 p.m., three unoccupied emplacements were [] at the site where the trucks had been in the morning. The imprints of the tank tracks on the road led to the east. 25X1 25X1
14. Between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. from 9 to 19 March, almost uninterrupted heavy artillery fire and machine gun fire was daily heard from the Himmelpfort area except for 14 March. The fire was most intensive on 12 and 13 March.⁴
15. On 15 March, troops began to occupy Camp Hammelspring-Kannenburg. At 6:30 a.m., a unit of 40 to 50 trucks [] and about 400 soldiers passed through Templin toward Hammelspring from the direction of Eberswalde or Prenzlau. A mortar unit of about 25 trucks towing 12 mortars of about 120 mm travelled in the same direction. On 17 March, four trucks with covered numbers occupied by enlisted men passed through Templin toward Hammelspring from the direction of Eberswalde or Prenzlau. No other troops were [] approaching the camp prior to the morning on 20 March.⁵ 25X1 25X1 25X1
1. [] Comment. Movements in the area of the Neuglienicke artillery range from 7 to 16 March involved mainly columns and individual vehicles of the 12th Gds Tank Div, but also some of the 9th Gds Tank Div and army troops of the Second Mech Army. It is believed that the troops held record practices and minor local exercises. The vehicles [] observed in Jagen 110 on 9 March belonged to a unit of the Fourth Gds Mech Army which left this area after the close of the exercises on 10 March. In the afternoon of 16 March, [] columns and trains of the Third Shock Army moving into this area for practices. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1
- The tank columns and the train with tanks observed on 17 and 18 March, cannot be identified [] 25X1

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2. Comment. The two trains with tank units of the 18th Mech Div observed on 11 March are reported for the first time. It is believed that the units were rotated to the Schweinrich training camp for short record firing practices. The trains observed from 15 to 18 March certainly came from Schwerin. The trains observed at 3:25 p.m. on 15 March and at 8 a.m. on 16 March were probably occupied by elements of the 4th Gds Arty Brig [] of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps. The train observed on 18 March was presumably loaded with tanks of the 74th [] Tank SP Regt of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The destinations of all the 26 trains observed were the Lindow, Rheinsberg, Fuerstenberg, Neustrelitz and Neubrandenburg railroad stations from where the maneuvers were started. 25X1
3. Comment. As the shipment of troops to the maneuver area of the Third Shock Army [] was not concluded before 18 March it is believed improbable that return movements to the posts should begun at the Wittstock railroad station on the same day. Official records indicated that troops entrained in Kyritz on 21 March, when the exercises were probably completed. 25X1
4. Comment. From 10 to 19 March, [] numerous troop trains and truck columns passing through Lychen from east to west and reversely. [] the 9th Gds Tank Div and army troops. Part of these units were probably rotated for record practices to the Himmelpfort area, which is the northern section of the Templin training grounds. 25X1
5. Comment. [] the troops belonged to the 25th Tank Div. On the basis of all available information this office does not believe that troops began to move to the training grounds already at this time. Although units stationed at Oranienburg during the winter moved to Vogelsang on 11 March, the units stationed at Prenzlau remained there for the time being, and the units of the 6th Gds Mech Div began leaving their posts for exercises in the Mircow area not before about 22 March. 25X1

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